

## LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

### Minutes of the Board Meeting

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

Present: Mr D Clarke in the Chair, & Messrs, B.H. Stott, J.R.S. Greenwood, J.T. Hughes, H. Hughes, P. Deakin, M.J. Worsley, C.A. Baker, R.T.J. Briers & M. Downs.

In Attendance: Mr D. Westhead & Mr Chris Gaffey (Eccles).

Apologies: Messrs, K. Andrews & A. Soutar.

#### CB Relationship Managers Report.

D. Westhead reported:

1. Business & Governance funding for Transformation from Sport England in the form of online webinars have been available for Level 3-6 Clubs. These are run with PWC & Liberty Marketing. An online Health Check is required first before Clubs can access the information. Uptake across the RFU has been very poor with only 100 clubs involved. In Lancashire, Sedgley, PGH & Rossendale have taken part. Due to the low uptake the sessions have been opened up to Level 7 & 8 and are to be extended to all clubs in near future.
2. The replacements for John Foster (Chris Hall) and Aaron Howorth (Bulak Dale) are due to take post within 2 weeks. Previously, Bulak worked for Leicester Tigers and Chris for Access Sport in Manchester. John will transfer to Womens & Girls Advocate for the North West and Aaron will become Competitions Officer for the North. The view is to get Bulak and Chris introduced to as many clubs as possible in a short space of time.
3. DW is open to ideas of where Bulak and Chris could help out, PD suggested pushing non contact rugby over the summer.
4. Tackle Height – DC noted that there had been a statement from Nigel Gillingham (RFU President) advising that the consultation had closed. PD thought most people now understood the reason for the change and seemed approving. The majority of problems could be around lower teams who may not train and therefore not be updated on the law change. BHS thought that referees would be sensible at the start of the change process and not be over draconian.

#### Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

#### Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

#### Questions to written reports.

PD had circulated the year to date expenditure report to all prior to the meeting. There were no questions to the report.

## RFU Report.

DC reported:

1. The Club & Community sub-committee of the RFU had requested that Council Members and CB Relationship Managers discuss Clubs priorities with 10% of their clubs from different levels. There will be a standard questionnaire which need to be completed with the summarised priorities by the County by the 21<sup>st</sup> April.
2. There had been no Council meeting sine the last Board meeting.
3. DC had received feedback from several clubs regarding the National Cups Competitions that are being held at the end of the league season. 18 of the 20 clubs who had responded had said they would prefer the Cups to be run throughout the season rather than the end and extend the league competitions in to April as they had previously been.

## Branding Lancashire Rugby.

Chris Gaffey from Eccles gave a presentation to the Board regarding the branding of the County. Chris has 20years experience as a freelance branding consultant ad has worked with several large sporting organisations.

1. Visual consistency is important to branding and we use different logos for different situations with the shirt badge being different from the logo used on stationary and social media.
2. Several examples of good and bad websites where shown. We would need to decide if we are going to change our website and how we would do it.
3. Chris would offer his consultancy services for free but there would be a cost in the actual build of a new site.
4. Timescale – best time would be at the end of the season before the new season starts if we were to go ahead.
5. CAB to coordinate response to Chris.

## County Championship Budgets.

1. HH & PD to zoom meet to understand where current spend is at.
2. Womens squad have come with a kit requirement of over £4k which will need to be much lower.
3. Due to ill health Steve Rigby had stepped down as Senior Mens XV Manager.
4. HH requested that Council members report back to the RFU that £2k per team per competition is nowhere near enough.
5. MD – RFU need to understand that in future if there is no County Championship there will be a shortage of CB administrators.
6. MD proposed that the Board and Past Presidents should cover their own costs for the home game against Yorkshire as a way to mitigate some of the cost. **Agreed.**
7. DC & MD to meet with Sedgley Park to discuss costs of the Yorkshire game.
8. MD advised that LANX had agreed to sponsor a man of the match award for the Yorkshire game which would be a voucher for a pair of shoes and 4 pairs of socks. The total value is approximately £300.
9. DC proposed to add an administration fee to the cost of the International tickets. This is to be discussed further but not thought to be viable.

## Correspondence.

None appertaining to this meeting.

## New Members.

No applications.

50:50 Draw

April 23	Value
M Brennand	£53.40
H Henderson	£8.90
A Clarke	£8.90
P Hanson	£8.90
G Spenglar	£8.90

Date of next meeting.

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at Liverpool St Helens.

Any other business.

GJM – Currently giving out 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Vouchers

CAB – reported on a positive meeting with our Mental Health Nurses. Training for them will be funded and then they will transfer the knowledge to our clubs free.

CAB – noted that there had been a rise in racist incidents around matches.

HH – U20s, so far many CBs have been breaking the eligibility rules and Lancashire are not. Cheshire and Yorkshire have already had points deducted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:00pm

D. Clarke

Chairman Date 2-5-23